



Foreign Agricultural Service

GAIN Report

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European Union

Fishery Products

European Commission proposes a Community

Fisheries Control Agency

2003

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Report Highlights:

The European Commission adopted a Communication proposing the creation of a Community Fisheries Control Agency. The aim of this new agency would be to improve coordination of EU and national fisheries inspection and surveillance resources.

Includes PSD changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Brussels USEU [BE2], E2

Fisheries Reform: European Commission proposes a Community Fisheries Control Agency

In 2002, the European Commission presented a report identifying the fragmentation of control measures as one of the weaknesses of the Common Fisheries Policy (CFP). To tackle this problem, the Council adopted a new CFP in December 2002 (Council Regulation 2371/2002). The new CFP includes provisions for a new legal framework for a EU-wide control and enforcement system. It defines the distribution of responsibilities for fisheries control and enforcement between the Commission and the member states. The member states are primarily responsible for the control and enforcement of the CFP, while the Commission is responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the CFP.

On March 21, 2003, The European Commission adopted a Communication proposing the creation of a Community Fisheries Control Agency (CFCA). The aim of this new European agency would be to improve coordination of EU and national fisheries inspection and surveillance resources by pooling them within a joint inspection structure. The CFCA's tasks and mandate will be defined in close co-operation with the member states. A more detailed proposal will be presented by the end of the year. The Communication also includes an Action Plan for co-operation in enforcement to be carried out over two years (2003-2005). This Action Plan has to help integrate national control strategies into a EU-wide control strategy. It calls for setting inspection priorities for the most threatened stocks, adopting specific monitoring programs and enhancing co-operation between member states and the Commission to ensure the effectiveness of controls. The initiative launched by the Action Plan would be continued through the development of the joint inspection structure.

The full text of the Communication can be downloaded from the Commission's website at http://europa.eu.int/comm/fisheries/doc_et_publ/factsheets/legal_texts/docscom/en/com_03_130_en.pdf.

Related reports from USEU Brussels:

Report number	Title	Date released
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